

Special points of interest:

- Aaa/AAA bond rating is a result of extraordinary long term financial planning.
- Home delivered meals help seniors live independently.
- Local organizations awarded for excellence.
- Intergovernmental cooperation results achieved with recycling initiatives.
- Children win with new training for foster parents.
- 2-1-1/FCFH achieves national accreditation.

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Focus on County Government

Executive Report...

Dear Friend:

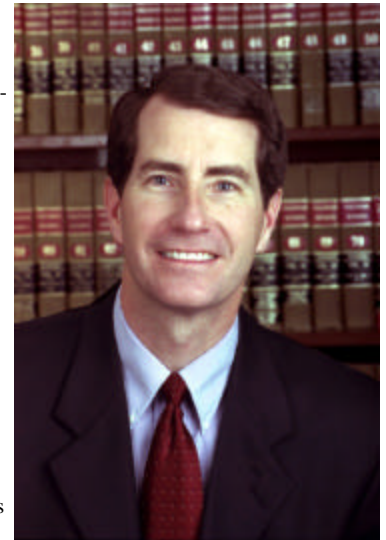
As part of my longstanding commitment to consolidating the services offered by Waukesha County and its respective municipalities, I am pleased to report that construction of our new Communications Center is progressing as planned. Scheduled for completion in early 2004, the center will streamline dispatch services for police, fire and emergency medical personnel countywide.

While our new Communications Center is an exciting development, I believe that it is important to continue the momentum initiated by this cost-saving project. The next logical step in service consolidation is to centralize the Level B Hazardous Material Response Service.

In 1991, Wisconsin started a regional hazardous material system by creating eight Level A teams for responding to the most serious spills and releases. Our Level A team is located in Milwaukee, but currently we have five Level B teams in Waukesha County that respond to incidences requiring a lesser degree of protection. These teams provide coverage for their municipalities and some neighboring communities about 12 times a year overall. Yet some of our communities still lack Level B coverage.

Since many fire departments do not have the training and equipment for Level B circumstances, my budget funds a cooperative effort with the City of Waukesha to extend their hazardous material response throughout the County. In addition to ensuring Level B Hazardous Material service for all our communities, municipalities that currently maintain these services are expected to realize considerable budget savings now and in the future.

I am confident that together, through the consolidation of services, we can provide a higher level of service more cost-effectively to the citizens of Waukesha County. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (262) 548-7902.



County Executive Dan Finley

5-Year Budget Trends...

Budget Year	General Purpose Property Tax Levy	Tax Rate/\$1000	Rate Change
2004	\$81,552,478	\$2.21	- 4.36%
2003	\$78,065,454	\$2.31	- 4.48%
2002	\$75,223,129	\$2.42	- 1.76%
2001	\$70,974,058	\$2.46	- 4.50%
2000	\$68,231,014	\$2.58	- 3.72%

COUNTY HOME TAXES

Increase of About 1% per Year

YEAR	HOME VALUE	RATE	TAX
1995	\$144,288	\$3.0298	\$437.16
2004	\$218,700	\$2.2094	\$483.19

Practicing Fiscal Responsibility . . .

Since County Executive Dan Finley took office in 1991, Waukesha County has had a solid track record of only modest tax increases and very stable budgets. Throughout his administration, Finley built a solid financial foundation that has helped insulate the County from large budget deficits and sinking bond ratings.

His 2004 proposed budget not only met the State legislative tax freeze proposal, but it reduced the tax levy rate for the 14th consecutive year to \$2.21 per \$1,000 of equalized value. Comparatively, it is the lowest tax levy rate for all counties in the State that have not implemented a

County sales tax.

This year's budget has been one of the most challenging documents to assemble. With a dramatic cut in State revenue payments for mandated service totaling over \$1.3 million, many tough decisions were made which included eliminating non-essential positions, limiting the number of new positions added, phasing out the BASIC medical payment program, and reducing the UW Extension tax levy budget base by 25%.

In an effort to continue providing the high level of service that residents demand, Finley has formulated strategic partnerships, like

that of consolidated dispatch services. In this instance, the County will invest \$1.5 million in tax levy for dispatch services, potentially saving municipalities \$2.7 million overall. An investment of this nature offers residents effective dispatch services in a cost-effective manner.

Finley has shown extraordinary leadership in long term financial planning, which is proven by the County's coveted Aaa/AAA bond rating. Waukesha County is one of less than 30 Counties throughout the nation with this status, that helps lower borrowing costs for the taxpayers and limits property tax spending.

Volunteering Makes a Difference . . .

Waukesha County's Home Delivered Meal Program is in critical need of volunteer drivers that are willing to adopt-a-route and deliver meals during lunch to seniors and homebound persons over the age of 60.

The benefits of this program extend beyond providing recipients with a safe and nutritious meal. It includes an annual health assessment conducted by the Department of Senior Services, which is based on high, medium and low risk categories, as well as infor-

mation on health history, eating habits and medication usage.

It also allows meal recipients to live independently in their homes as long as possible, and saves money for both them and the community by reducing health-care expenses.

Between January and September, 264 drivers delivered 60,215 meals throughout the County, but due to the rapid increase in our senior population and program enrollment, more drivers are

needed.

Program volunteers must be over the age of 18. Convenient routes are available and can be scheduled weekly, monthly or on an as needed basis. Both individuals and groups are welcome to participate.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or you would like more information about this service, please call the Department of Senior Services at (262) 548-7834.

Recognizing Excellence . . .

County Executive Dan Finley held the 8th Annual County Executive Awards Luncheon on Thursday, October 2, at the Country Inn Hotel to recognize private, public and non-profit sector organizations that contribute to the continued success of the County and its citizens.

Award nominations are assessed by a panel of judges that rank applications based on an organization's ability to meet the needs

of customers, investors, employees and the community at large.

The 2003 winners include:

MLG
Business of the Year

Lad Lake, Inc.
Non-Profit of the Year

Waukesha County Court Self-Help Program
Government Agency of the Year

This year's event featured Joyce Garbaciak, a FOX 6 News an-

chor/reporter, as the mistress of ceremonies. The keynote address was provided by Peter Bell of Pabst Farms in Oconomowoc.

The Business and Government Agency of the Year received elegant awards. In addition to the award, the Non-Profit Agency of the Year received a \$5,000 grant from US Bank.

The event was graciously co-sponsored by US Bank and FOX 6 News.



Chief Judge Kathryn Foster accepts the award for the Court Self-Help Program.

Cooperating to Enhance Performance . . .

With local governments facing tight budget climates, working together cooperatively can increase efficiency and decrease service costs.

In 2001, the County started a recycling program with 25 municipal partners through state funds to provide program education and coordination for the processing and marketing of recyclables at the County's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF).

As a result of efficient operations, higher market revenues in recent years, and continued grant funding, the 25 municipal partners that joined the program have received annual dividend checks

from the County for the last three years. Payments this year ranged from \$1,538 to \$155,321.

Under the County Executive's 2004 budget proposal, the 12 municipalities that originally chose not to participate in the program will be invited to bring their recyclables to MRF for actual cost processing, which has averaged less than \$6 per ton since the program's start.

By joining this intergovernmental effort, the State of Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources will give Recycling Efficiency Incentive grants to these new communities. They will also be able to retain their "Responsible

Unit" status upon signing the cooperative agreement with the County.

This new initiative will provide benefits for the existing municipal partners in that fixed operating costs will be spread out over a larger funding base, which will reduce costs for all parties and will help ensure future dividend checks. In addition, they take on no additional risk in the arrangement, because the new communities will be charged actual cost rates for processing recyclables.

Waukesha County is looking forward to continued program success and welcomes new communities to the partnership.



Semi Truck delivers material for recycling at Waukesha County's Materials Recycling Facility.

Fostering Positive Results . . .

Children that are removed from their homes and placed in foster care due to abuse or neglect have special challenges, and to better address these challenges, the Department of Health & Human Services embarked on a bold, new training initiative to ensure that all foster parents receive 36 hours of training to help children placed in their homes cope with difficult situations.

Curricula includes information on teambuilding, child abuse and neglect, child development, disci-

pline and behavior management, attachment, separation and placement, cultural issues, sexual abuse, effects of care giving on the foster family, and more.

To date, half of the county's foster parents have been trained or are scheduled to be trained in an upcoming session. Many of those that have already received the training uniformly provided positive feedback about it and have begun implementing what they learned. As a result, these foster parents have a better understand-

ing of case developments and how to facilitate a healthy reunification for children that have been separated from their families.

Even with a strong fostering program in place, the County still needs more committed families and individuals that want to make a difference in the life of a child. If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, please call (262) 548-7212.

Earning Accreditation for Service Standards . . .

In September, Waukesha County's 2-1-1/First Call for Help (FCFH) service received national accreditation from the Alliance of Information and Referral Providers (AIRS) for its confidential hotline.

The Mental Health Association (MHA), which runs 2-1-1 locally, is the 21st organization to be accredited throughout the United States and Canada. To qualify, MHA had to meet national stan-

dards in the following areas: organizational structure, personnel administration, training and orientation, service delivery, resource development and program evaluation.

After receiving the documentation from MHA for accreditation, an AIRS team met with MHA and toured the facility. The team found that 2-1-1/FCFH met the standards and subsequently approved the AIRS Information and

Referral accreditation.

2-1-1/FCFH enables callers to receive information, referrals, crisis intervention and supportive listening services from trained telephone counselors 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

As one of many 2-1-1/FCFH service funders, Waukesha County government is proud of MHA's accreditation status and its continued efforts in our community!



Call 2-1-1 for information on a wide range of community resources - from basic needs to volunteer opportunities.

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County Executive Dan Finley

Sharing Information to Improve Lives . . .

The explosive growth in our senior population has greatly increased the need for caregivers, and over the next decade, approximately 47 million baby boomers in North America will be faced with providing care to parents, relatives or elderly friends.

To ease this burden, the Department of Senior Services started the Caregiver Support Program through grant monies made available by the Older Americans Act. The program helps families that are faced with caregiving challenges by providing information, assistance, training, respite care and benefits counseling.

As the need for caregivers increases, so does the need for additional resources. To improve access to them, the department has been actively developing a lending library over the past two years. Located in the department which is housed in the Waukesha County Administration Center, it currently holds more than 1000 educational videotapes, books, audio cassettes and demonstration items. On a monthly basis, new items are added and rotated to six satellite locations throughout the County. Additional

grant monies make it possible to mail materials at no cost to people that are unable to make it to one of the locations due to caregiving responsibilities.

The program also includes a "try it before you buy it" opportunity to address equipment needs, which enables seniors and their caregivers to borrow equipment from the department before it is purchased for individual use. This helps both parties determine what equipment does or doesn't work for a particular circumstance, prior to investing in it.

In addition to these services, the department has established many partnerships with local organizations to help caregivers with grocery shopping, lawn mowing, snow shoveling, housekeeping, meal preparation and specialized transportation.

It also provides support to grandparents raising their grandchildren.

For more information about the Caregiver Support Program and its available resources, please call the Department of Senior Services at (262) 548-7848.

